AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

14. (original) A method for communicating between a host computer and a library of one or more types of memory elements controlled by a library controller, comprising the steps of:

forming a first association of a plurality of commands for instructing a plurality of different types of memory elements which the host computer expects the library to be according to a fibre channel protocol;

forming a second association of said plurality of commands and a plurality of codes particularly adapted for controlling respective memory elements in the library;

receiving a command from a host computer according to the fibre channel protocol;

identifying the type of memory element which the host computer expects the library to be;

identifying said command by consulting said first association;

selecting, by the controller, one or more of the memory elements in the library for carrying out the command;

identifying the associated said code by consulting said second association for said selected memory elements; and

executing the identified code for carrying out the command in the library with said selected memory elements.

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15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein said step of executing the identified code further comprises reading data from a hard disk drive in the library, formatting said data according to the identified said protocol, and thereafter sending said data to the host computer.

16. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of carrying out the executed code further comprises writing to a hard disk drive in the library.

17. (original) An article of manufacture for use in communicating between one or more host computers and a library of one or more types of memory elements controlled by a library controller, said article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage medium tangibly embodying a program of executable computer instructions which cause said controller to perform steps comprising:

   forming a first association of a plurality of commands for instructing a plurality of different types of memory elements which the host computer expects the library to be according to a fibre channel protocol;

   forming a second association of said plurality of commands and a plurality of codes particularly adapted for controlling respective memory elements in the library;

   receiving a command from a host computer according to the

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fibre channel protocol;

identifying the type of memory element which the host computer expects the library to be;

identifying said command by consulting said first association;

selecting, by the controller, one or more of the memory elements in the library for carrying out the command;

identifying the associated said code by consulting said second association for said selected memory elements; and

executing the identified code for carrying out the command in the library with said selected memory elements.

18. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein said program of computer instructions may cause said library controller to execute the identified code at least by reading data from a hard disk drive in the library, formatting said data according to the identified said protocol, and thereafter sending said data to the host computer.

19. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein said program of computer instructions may cause said library controller to execute the identified code at least by writing to a hard disk drive in the library.

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20. (new) A method for emulating a fibre channel port,

comprising the steps of:

    receiving a communication request including a fibre-

channel-standard address;

    converting the fibre-channel-standard address to a physical

address corresponding to a peripheral device not currently

connected to a fabric port;

    fetching the first peripheral device; and

    coupling the peripheral device to the fabric port.

21. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the fabric port is

electrically connected to an input/output cell and said step of

coupling the peripheral device to the fabric port includes

electrically connecting the peripheral device to the

input/output cell.

22. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising the steps

of:

    waiting for the peripheral device to be coupled to the

fabric port; and

    communicating with the peripheral device.

23. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising the steps

of:

receiving data before the step of coupling the peripheral

device to the fabric port is completed;

storing said data; and

writing said data to the peripheral device after the step

of coupling the peripheral device to the fabric port has

completed.

24.   (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising the steps

of:

obtaining data during the step of communicating with the

peripheral device; and

 interpreting the data using an upper layer protocol.

25.   (new) An article of manufacture including a data storage

medium, said data storage medium including a set of machine-

readable instructions that are executable by a processing device

to implement an algorithm, said algorithm comprising the steps

of:

receiving a communication request including a fibre-

channel-standard address;

converting the fibre-channel-standard address to a physical

address corresponding to a peripheral device not currently

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connected to a fabric port;

    fetching the first peripheral device; and

    coupling the peripheral device to the fabric port.

26.   (new) The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the fabric port is electrically connected to an input/output cell and said step of coupling the peripheral device to the fabric port includes electrically connecting the peripheral device to the input/output cell.

27.   (new) The article of manufacture of claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

    waiting for the peripheral device to be coupled to the fabric port; and

    communicating with the peripheral device.

28.   (new) The article of manufacture of claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

    receiving data before the step of coupling the peripheral device to the fabric port is completed;

    storing said data; and

    writing said data to the peripheral device after the step of coupling the peripheral device to the fabric port has

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completed.

29.   (new) The article of manufacture of claim 27, further
comprising the steps of:

    obtaining data during the step of communicating with the
peripheral device; and

  interpreting the data using an upper layer protocol.

30. (new) A method for emulating a fibre channel port,
comprising the steps of:

    receiving a communication request including a fibre-
channel-standard address;

    converting the fibre-channel-standard address to a physical
address corresponding to a peripheral device not currently
connected to a fabric port;

    identifying the physical address as being associated with
data residing within a temporary storage device; and

    fetching the data from the temporary storage device.

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